LAWS, ORDERS,

AND

REGULATIONS,

OF

THE EDINBURGH

GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

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Laws, Orders, and Regulations, &c.

The Hiſtory, Title, and Purpoſe of the Inſtitution.

THE ſituation of PREGNANT WOMEN in indigent circumſtances claims the attention of the benevolent in a peculiar manner. They are unable to procure proper aſſiſtance during child-bearing, and cannot enjoy that undiſturbed repoſe after delivery which is often neceſſary to their recovery. Their offspring, therefore, is frequently loſt, and their own health much impaired.

With the view of obviating theſe evils, Lying-in Hoſpitals have been eſtabliſhed in almoſt every civilized country, and have been found extenſively beneficial.

But although the poor of Edinburgh be not in a more comfortable ſituation than in other large cities, ſubſcriptions for the erection of a Lying-in Hoſpital here were not begun till December 1791.

The propoſals for an inſtitution of this kind, drawn up by the Profeſſor of Midwifery, having received the approbation of the Royal College of Phyſicians, &c. the Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt, Magiſtrates, and Town-Council, granted, on 26th December 1792, a ſeal of cauſe, erecting the ſubſcribers into an incorporated body, under the name of "THE SOCIETY FOR RELIEVING INDIGENT PREGNANT "WOMEN," intitling them to call the houſe or buildings to be appropriated by them for that purpoſe, "THE EDIN-"BURGH GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL," allowing them all the immunities and privileges enjoyed by other bodies-corporate, &c.

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The Directors appointed by the Subſcribers to carry forward this inſtitution purchaſed, in May 1793, that houſe and area entering from Briſto-Street, commonly called Roſs-houſe.

The principal object in the erection of this Hoſpital is to eſtabliſh a proper proviſion during lying-in for the wives of the working poor, and to afford an aſylum to the wives of ſoldiers and ſailors, who, remote from their relations, and many of them from their country, are often, during pregnancy and child-bearing, in circumſtances truly deplorable. In order to prevent the fatal conſequences of deſpondency, or the unhappy effects of public infamy, the benefits of the inſtitution are extended to thoſe unmarried pregnant women who are in that ſtate for the firſt time, and whoſe characters in other reſpects are unexceptionable.

Advice on the diſeaſes peculiar to women and children ſhall alſo be given *gratis* by the Phyſicians of the Hoſpital on certain days of the week.

The advantages of this inſtitution are not confined to the poor alone; for a Lying-in Hoſpital affords an excellent opportunity for the inſtruction of Practitioners of Midwifery. While, therefore, this eſtabliſhment muſt accompliſh the moſt benevolent views as a public charity, it muſt ſerve alſo the moſt uſeful purpoſes as an extenſive ſchool for important and neceſſary inſtruction.

The Hoſpital is founded and muſt be ſupported by voluntary ſubſcriptions and donations.

Of the Subſcribers and Benefactors.

THE Subſcribers and Benefactors to this Hoſpital ſhall have the ſole management of every thing relating to it, except in the choice of the ordinary Phyſician, as hereafter ſpecified.

The immediate management of the Hoſpital ſhall be veſted in

in a Preſident, four Vice-Preſidents, eight Ordinary Directors, and a Treaſurer, to be choſen annually by the ſuſcribers, at a meeting held for that purpoſe.

The following Gentlemen in a public ſtation are to be conſidered as Extraordinary Managers, to be requeſted, when neceſſary, to aſſiſt the Ordinary Directors with their advice, viz.

The Lord Provoſt,
The Lord Preſident of the Court of Seſſion,
The Lord Chief Baron,
The Lord Advocate,
The acting Sheriff,
The Convener of the Trades,
The Principal of the Univerſity,
The Profeſſor of Divinity,
The Preſident and Treaſurer of the Royal Colleges of Phyſicians and Surgeons.

The Subſcribers ſhall be intitled to vote by proxy, and the Ladies who ſubſcribe ſhall enjoy the ſame privileges.

The neareſt Heir of thoſe who bequeath legacies to the Hoſpital ſhall be intitled to the privileges of a Subſcriber.

Of the Preſidents and Ordinary Directors.

The Preſident, Vice-Preſidents, and Ordinary Directors, ſhall be deſired to meet every three months at leaſt, to regulate the affairs of the Hoſpital.

The Preſidents, or one Vice-Preſident and four Ordinary Directors, or five, whether Preſidents or Ordinary Directors, ſhall conſtitute a Quorum, poſſeſſing the full powers of the whole.

The Treaſurer and Ordinary Phyſician ſhall attend each meeting officially; the former to lay before the Directors the ſtate of the funds, &c. and the latter to report to them that

of

of the patients, and to ſuggeſt any regulations reſpecting their management which he may find neceſſary.

Subſcribers may attend theſe meetings, and aſſiſt with their advice, but ſhall not vote on any queſtion.

An extra meeting of the Directors may be held at any time; but the regulations adopted at ſuch meetings ſhall only continue in force till the next ſtated meeting, when, if they be not confirmed, they muſt be annulled.

Patients recommended by the Preſident ſhall be admitted in preference to every other; and the Vice-Preſidents and Ordinary Directors ſhall be intitled to recommend, annually, one preferable patient at leaſt.

Of the Ordinary Phyſician.

THE Profeſſor of Midwifery for the time being ſhall be the Ordinary Phyſician to the Hoſpital.

The charge of the patients ſhall be intruſted ſolely to him, with the power of calling in the aid of the Conſulting, Extraordinary, or Aſſiſtant Phyſicians, when he ſees fit.

He ſhall *ex officio* be a member of all committees, and be ſummoned to all meetings.

All the ſervants of the Hoſpital ſhall be under his direction; but the power of diſmiſſing any of them in the event of improper conduct ſhall be veſted in the Preſidents and Ordinary Directors.

The Ordinary Phyſician, under the regulations after ſpecified, ſhall alone have the power of admitting patients, ſo that none affected with contagious diſeaſes may be received into the Hoſpital.

He ſhall, beſides taking care of the houſe-patients, attend at the Hoſpital, at a particular hour, on certain days of the week, for the purpoſe of giving advice in the diſeaſes of women and children. But he may requeſt the Extraordi-

nary

nary or Assistant Physician to take charge of this necessary duty.

The Ordinary Physician shall be intitled, exclusively, to the privilege of granting Diplomas to the Pupils attending the Hospital.

Of the Consulting, Extraordinary, and Assistant Physician.

THE Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons for the time being shall be considered as Consulting Physician and Surgeon, to be requested by the Ordinary Physician to attend on extraordinary occasions.

The Subscribers shall elect two Physicians practising Midwifery to attend the Hospital, the one as Extraordinary, the other as Assistant Physician, during the necessary absence of the Ordinary Physician.

The Extraordinary and Assistant Physicians shall continue in these offices for life, unless they choose at any time to resign. They shall never attend the Hospital but when called by the Ordinary Physician, or during his absence; and shall not interfere with the management of the patients, except on these occasions.

Of the Treasurer.

THE Treasurer shall be chosen annually by the Subscribers.

He shall have the charge of all the money belonging to the Hospital, and shall keep a regular account of the receipts and expenditure.

The Treasurer alone shall grant receipts to the Subscribers for their annual or total subscriptions, and also discharges to Trustees for any Legacies which may be bequeathed to the Hospital.

He shall also register the minutes of the Directors at all their

their meetings; and he ſhall be a member of every committee, although not ſpecially named.

All the meetings of the Directors ſhall be called by the Treaſurer, in name of the Preſident.

The Treaſurer's accounts ſhall be annually examined and paſſed by the Preſidents and Directors.

Of the Midwife.

AN experienced Midwife (unmarried) ſhall be choſen by the Subſcribers. She ſhall receive an annual ſalary for her ſervices, and ſhall always reſide in the Hoſpital.

The Midwife ſhall have the charge of the internal affairs of the Hoſpital. She ſhall attend all the patients, and be ready at all times to report their caſes to the Phyſician.

She ſhall be furniſhed with an inventory, ſigned by the Treaſurer and Ordinary Phyſician, and confirmed by herſelf, of all the houſehold-furniture, linen, &c. belonging to the Hoſpital; and ſhe ſhall be accountable to the Directors for every article ſpecified therein.

She ſhall provide all the neceſſaries with reſpect to food, &c. for the patients and ſervants of the Hoſpital. For this purpoſe, ſhe ſhall receive a ſum of money weekly from the Treaſurer, and ſhall, at the end of each week, produce to him a regular account of the expenditure; and her vouchers and accounts ſhall at ſuch times be examined by him, and, if regular, paſſed, atteſted, and regiſtered.

The Midwife ſhall have the immediate ſuperintendence of the inferior ſervants of the Hoſpital, and ſhall take care that they perform their reſpective duties properly, and ſhall report to the Ordinary Phyſician every circumſtance to the contrary.

She ſhall be required to keep a regular regiſter of all the patients, of the date of their admiſſion, diſmiſſion, of their delivery, &c.

Of

Of the Inferior Servants of the Hoſpital.

THE Inferior Servants of the Hoſpital ſhall conſiſt of a cook, a number of nurſes proportioned to that of the patients, and of a porter, who ſhall not reſide in the houſe.

They ſhall be engaged for a ſhort ſpace of time only, that they may be removed, when neceſſary, by order of the Ordinary Directors.

Of the Patients.

NO Patients ſhall be admitted into the Hoſpital without the recommendation of a Subſcriber; but ſuch recommendation ſhall not be conſidered as ſubjecting the Subſcriber to any expence in the event of the Patient's death, unleſs ſpecially mentioned.

Every married Patient ſhall be required to produce an obligation from her huſband, binding himſelf to take his wife and child, or children, out of the Hoſpital, when deſired, and to pay the expence of his wife's or child's or childrens funeral, if ſhe, it, or they ſhould unfortunately die.

Every unmarried Patient ſhall be required to furniſh a ſimilar obligation, ſigned by one reſpectable houſeholder of the city or county of Edinburgh, and ſhall be obliged to produce alſo an atteſtation of her general good character, ſigned by the ſeſſion-clerk of the pariſh to which ſhe belongs, or by the miniſter or two elders of ſuch pariſh, or by two reſpectable houſeholders of the county or city of Edinburgh, or by one regular clergyman of the ſaid county or city.

A ſimilar obligation and atteſtation ſhall be exacted from thoſe married Patients whoſe huſbands are dead, or at a diſtance.

The number of Patients to be maintained conſtantly at the expence of the Hoſpital ſhall at firſt be reſtricted to eighteen, viz. twelve married and ſix unmarried women.

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The married women ſhall be lodged in a part of the houſe perfectly diſtinct from that appropriated to the unmarried, entering by a different door, and from a different ſtreet.

The married Patients are to be attended by the male pupils of the Hoſpital, under the direction of the Ordinary Phyſician; and the unmarried Patients, under his ſuperintendance, are to be attended ſolely by the female pupils.

Every Patient admitted into the Hoſpital ſhall be required to conform herſelf to the following Regulations; and every one tranſgreſſing any of them ſhall be immediately diſmiſſed from the Hoſpital, and never again received into it.

Regulations reſpecting Patients.

EVERY Patient ſhall bring with her, when admitted into the Hoſpital, proper cloathing for herſelf and child.

No Patient who ſhall have remained in the Hoſpital above ſix weeks from the date of her admiſſion, unleſs by order of the Phyſician, ſhall be intitled to any ſum of money on her diſmiſſion.

No Patient ſhall be allowed to go out of the Hoſpital without permiſſion of the Midwife.

No perſons ſhall be admitted as viſitors to Patients except on three days of the week, between the hours of one and two afternoon.

No ſuch viſitor ſhall enter any other part of the Hoſpital than the Hall appropriated to that purpoſe.

No viſitors can be allowed to ſee any of the lying-in Patients, without permiſſion from the Midwife, as they ſhall be lodged in a ſeparate part of the houſe from that allotted to the undelivered women.

The Patients who are able are expected to aſſiſt the Nurſes in attending the lying-in Patients, &c.

Every Patient ſhall yield an implicit obedience to the Midwife;

wife; but at the ſame time ſhall have power, if aggrieved by any perſon in the Hoſpital, to apply for redreſs to the Ordinary Phyſician, or to any of the Ordinary Directors.

The diet of the Patients ſhall be regulated by the Ordinary Phyſician, and no other articles of food, except thoſe preſcribed by him, ſhall be allowed.

No perſon ſhall be permitted to bring any fermented or ſpirituous liquors into the Hoſpital, without an order from the Phyſician.

No Patient ſhall be allowed to leave the Hoſpital without her child or children, if it or they be alive.

The children born in the Hoſpital ſhall be baptized before they be taken away.

Every Patient ſhall, on her diſmiſſion, if ſhe ſhall have conformed to the above Regulations, and ſhall have behaved properly in every reſpect, receive the ſum of Five Shillings Sterling, from which no deduction ſhall be made by the Nurſe or Nurſes, on any pretence whatever.

If any Patient ſhall unfortunately die, notice thereof ſhall be immediately ſent to the perſon or perſons who had ſigned the obligation required on the admiſſion of Patients; and if ſuch perſon or perſons do not take charge of the funeral, the Midwife ſhall cauſe the body to be buried in the moſt decent economical manner; and the expence ſhall be defrayed by the perſon or perſons who ſigned the obligation.

Of the Pupils of the Hoſpital.

Male Pupils.

THE Gentlemen who attend the lectures of the Profeſſor of Midwifery are alone intitled to become Pupils of the Hoſpital.

Each Gentleman ſhall pay the ſum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence

Sixpence Sterling for being permitted to attend the Hoſpital for three months, One Guinea for ſix months, and ſo in proportion.

Each Gentleman, on paying any of theſe ſums, ſhall receive a ticket, containing the following words:

" is hereby intitled to attend the Edinburgh " General Lying-in Hoſpital for the ſpace of on " condition that he ſhall obey faithfully all the Regulations " reſpecting Pupils."

The Profeſſor of Midwifery ſhall iſſue theſe tickets, and ſhall be accountable to the Treaſurer for the ſums received for them.

Female Pupils.

THE Midwives who attend the Profeſſor of Midwifery ſhall be allowed to attend the Hoſpital without any expence.

Each Midwife ſhall receive a ticket for that purpoſe, containing the following words.

" is hereby intitled to attend the General " Lying-in Hoſpital of Edinburgh for the ſpace of " on condition that ſhe ſhall carefully obſerve all the Regu- " lations reſpecting Female Pupils."

Regulations reſpecting Male Pupils.

NO Gentlemen ſhall be permitted to attend the Hoſpital without having the ticket allotted for Male Pupils.

But any Gentleman may be allowed to viſit the Hoſpital, by an order from the Phyſician, according to the Regulations reſpecting viſitors.

No Male Pupil ſhall attempt to enter, under the penalty of forfeiting his ticket, any part of the Hoſpital, except the wards allotted for married patients, and the rooms appropriated to Male Pupils.

No

No Male Pupil (with the exception afterwards ſpecified) ſhall have acceſs to the Hoſpital, unleſs ſummoned by the porter, except between the hours of twelve and one forenoon and ſeven and eight in the evening, at which hours the Midwife ſhall attend in the wards.

Gentlemen ſhall be called to deliveries in the order in which their names are regiſtered in the Claſs-book of the Profeſſor of Midwifery.

They ſhall be divided into claſſes of twelve, to be called to deliveries in ſucceſſion, and no more than that number ſhall ever, except when ſummoned particularly by the Phyſician, be preſent at a delivery.

No Gentleman ſhall be permitted to deliver any of the Patients, unleſs he have attended the Hoſpital for the ſpace of three months, or have formerly attended the Lying-in Ward of the Royal Infirmary for the ſame period.

Gentlemen intitled to deliver ſhall deliver in the order in which their names are regiſtered in the Claſs-book of the Profeſſor of Midwifery. That this may be aſcertained, a liſt of ſuch Gentlemen, ſigned by the Profeſſor, ſhall be lodged with the Midwife.

The Midwife ſhall be preſent at every delivery, and the Phyſician ſhall alſo attend when neceſſary.

The Phyſicians of the Hoſpital ſhall be required to draw up a few general precepts for the management of deliveries, in the Latin Language. Theſe ſhall be painted on a board hung up in the delivery room, that thoſe Gentlemen who do not take an active part in the delivery may underſtand the principles on which the others proceed.

The Gentleman who has charge of the delivery ſhall be furniſhed by the Midwife with a regiſter, the form of which ſhall be ſettled by the Phyſicians, on which he ſhall mark the commencement of labour, the progreſs, and termination, the number, ſex, and weight of the children, and alſo ſhall carefully

carefully note any particular circumſtance which may attend the delivery.

The after-treatment of the Patient, under the direction of the Phyſician, ſhall be intruſted to the Gentleman who had charge of the delivery; and he ſhall be required to mark regularly, on the regiſter in which he entered the delivery, the diurnal ſtate of the patient, till ſhe ſhall be diſmiſſed from the Hoſpital.

The regiſters, when filled up, ſhall be conſigned to the care of the Phyſician.

Every Gentleman who ſhall not carefully obſerve the Regulations reſpecting the regiſters, ſhall forfeit, for the benefit of the Hoſpital, the ſum of One Guinea for the firſt offence, and if afterwards again guilty of the ſame neglect, ſhall be expelled for ever from the Hoſpital, and ſhall not be intitled to a diploma.

Every Gentleman who has had charge of a delivery ſhall be permitted to enter the Hoſpital at any time from ſeven in the morning to eleven at night, till the patient be diſmiſſed.

If his attendance be neceſſary at any other time, he ſhall be called by the Phyſician.

Thoſe pupils whom the Profeſſor of Midwifery receives under the title of Annual Pupils, ſhall pay to the Hoſpital the ſum of Two Guineas.

The annual pupils alone ſhall attend the Hoſpital during the hours appropriated for giving advice in the diſeaſes incident to women and children.

Two annual pupils, in rotation, ſhall attend the Phyſician at ſuch hours.

They ſhall be required to regiſter the caſe of each patient, and the preſcription of the Phyſician. Theſe regiſters ſhall be lodged with the Midwife, and ſhall be open for the inſpection of every Male Pupil of the Hoſpital.

It is expected, that no Gentleman will injure, deſtroy, or take away any of the regiſters; and if any pupil ſhall be

guilty

guilty of ſuch offences, he ſhall be expelled from the Hoſpital, and his expulſion publicly notified in the room appropriated for Male Pupils.

It is hoped, that the Pupils will make no noiſe in entering or going out of the Hoſpital at any time, or during their attendance there, that the recovery of the patients may not be interrupted.

Regulations reſpecting Female Pupils.

NO Midwife ſhall attend the Hoſpital without having the ticket allotted for Female Pupils.

No Female Pupil ſhall enter the Hoſpital at any hour, (with the exception afterwards ſpecified), except between the hours of eleven and twelve forenoon and ſix and ſeven in the evening, unleſs ſummoned by the porter.

At theſe hours, the Female Pupils ſhall have acceſs to every part of the Hoſpital appropriated for patients, except thoſe ſet apart for the reception of boarders.

They ſhall deliver no patients but unmarried ones.

But they ſhall be allowed to aſſiſt in dreſſing all the children in the Hoſpital, and alſo in dreſſing, &c. the lying-in patients.

The Midwife of the Hoſpital ſhall ſuperintend them on thoſe occaſions.

The Female Pupils ſhall be called to deliveries in the order in which their names are entered in the Claſs-book of the Profeſſor of Midwifery.

But four only ſhall be preſent at each delivery.

The Pupil who delivers ſhall be provided with a regiſter ſimilar to that given to the Male Pupils, on which ſhe ſhall take care to mark, or cauſe to be marked, all the circumſtances of the delivery; ſhe ſhall then give the regiſter to the Phyſician, that he may add the hiſtory of the after-treatment.

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The Female Pupil who ſhall have had charge of the delivery ſhall have acceſs to the Hoſpital at all times from ſeven in the morning till eleven at night, while the patient remains in the houſe.

No Female Pupil ſhall be allowed to preſcribe any medicine or remedy, either for internal or external uſe, for any of the women or children, as that duty belongs excluſively to the Phyſician.

The Female Pupils are expected to avoid every opportunity of being at any time in the ſame parts of the Hoſpital with the Male Pupils, and they are required to take particular care not to diſturb the patients in any manner whatever.

Of Viſitors.

THE Hoſpital ſhall be open for Viſitors every Wedneſday between the hours of one and two afternoon; and Viſitors who cannot attend on ſuch occaſions may be admitted at any time, by an order from the Phyſician.

Ladies viſiting the Hoſpital may have acceſs to every part of it, except that appropriated to Boarders, or any ward in which one or more of the patients in a precarious ſituation may be laid. But any patient who does not wiſh to be ſeen by Viſitors ſhall be allowed to conceal herſelf till they leave the Hoſpital. Gentlemen Viſitors can only be admitted into the wards of the undelivered married women, unleſs they have a ſpecial order from the Phyſician,

The Midwife of the Hoſpital ſhall always attend Viſitors.

It is expected, that no Viſitors will offer any ſum of money to any of the patients or ſervants of the Hoſpital; and if any patients or ſervants ſhall accept of ſuch ſum, they ſhall be immediately diſmiſſed from the Hoſpital, and never again admitted.